RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 10th December, 1985/ 19 Agrahayana, 1907 (Saka) The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Setting up of a nickel extraction plant at Sukinda in Orissa

*301. SHRI JAGADISH JANI; Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state.-

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Nickel extraction plant at Sukinda in Orissa;

(b) whether the proposal has been pendjng consideration with the Central Government for long;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) In April, 1974 Government sanction was accorded for a 4800 tonnes per annum nickel extraction plant, based on the ore deposits in Sukinda (Orissa) and based on indigenous technology. The technology, when tried on pilot plant scale did not yield satisfactory results It therefore, became necessary to evaluate the available data. This was undertaken with the assistance of Canadian International Development Agency. The evaluation revealed the need for additional exploration, laboratory and pilot plant test work before a feasibility report could be prepared. Based on this, a scheme for additional exploration was Prepared. Offers were obtained from Ifareign consultants for review of 1493 RS—1 exploration data and laboratory and pilot plant test work.

The offers received were evaluated and it was found that the total cost of carrying out further studies would be about Rs. 48.71 crores. In view of the severe constraint on resources and the adverse economics of producing nickel at Sukinda, there does not appear to be sufficient justification for incurring this expenditure. Accodringly, the project is not being pursued.

*SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the foundation-stone of this project was laid in the year 1974. Now it is 1985. Till today the project has not been started. As the proposed project is located in a backward area in Orissa and as it can provide employment to many unemployed local youths, will the Minister take all possible steps[1] so that the project can be started in the Seventh Plan period?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA: Sir, there is no provision in the Seventh Five Year Plan for taking up this project. The Government of India conveyed their approval to establish a nickel and cobalt plant in April 1974. Therefore, the laying of the foundation stone has sound basis. This approval was based on a feasibility report and the Government wanted to know the result of the pilot plant trials which unfortunately did not achieve expected results. The Government then had to the help of international experts, and the services of INCO Technical. Canada, were accordingly requisitioned. They have opined about unfavourable economics of the project.

*SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Mr. Chairman. Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in her reply that the total cost of carrying out further studies would be about Rs. 48.71 crores. She

English translation of original supplementary put in Oriya.

has *also* stated that due to (severe constraint on resources, the project has not been started BO far. As this is an important project, will the Government explore the possibility of getting external assistance to undertake further study?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you make further study? That is what he wants to know.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA: Not at present.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what has happened to the proposed ferro-metel plant that was to be put up in Orissa.

MB. CHAIRMAN. This relates to the nickel plant.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA: Sir, I will reply. The Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation Limited of Orissa was granted a letter of intent in February 1984 for 10,000 tonnes of ferro-nickel metal in 1984. The Government of Orissa requested the transfer of the letter of intent to the Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa, a public sector undertaking. The Government of India allowed this transfer. The earlier letter of intent dated 29-2-1984 for the production of 10,000 tonnes per annum of a particular type of ferro-nickel granted to the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation Limited stands transferred to the IDCOL, and the capacity has been Raised to 15,000 tonnes per annum.

श्री रामचन्द्र भारद्वाज : मान्यवर मैं माननीया मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि सारे देश में निकल का कितना डिपाजिट है और स्टेटवाइज उनकी क्या पोजीशन है, राज्यों की अलग-अलग क्या स्थिति है ? कितना हम एक्सट्रेक्ट कर पा रहे हैं और अगर नहीं कर पा रहे हैं तो हमारा काम कैसे चलता है ?

श्रीमती रामदुलारी सिन्हा : श्रीमन्, निकल ओर के रिजर्व तो थ्रू आउट इंडिया में हैं हां नहीं । यह उड़ीसा में है और जैसा कि अभी कहा गया यह सुकिण्डा में है । यहां पर 154 मिलियन टन्स ओर का डिपाजिट है जिसमें ओर ग्रेड 1.05 परसेंट है और जो बाकी बचता है वह सिमलीपाल और मयूरभंज डिस्ट्रिक्ट में उड़ीसा में पड़ता है । जहां तक हमारे टोटल रिक्वायरमेंट आफ निकल का सवाल है तो यह विदेशों से मंगाया जाता है जैसे यू० एस० ए०, आस्ट्रेलिया, कनाडा एण्ड यू० के० और इन्हीं से हमारा टोटल इम्पोर्ट, हमारा रिक्वायरमेंट पूरा होता है । अभी फिलहाल निकल ओर के एक्सट्रेक्शन का सवाल सरकार के सामने नहीं है ।

Payment of provident fund amount to factory workers in Delhi

*302. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of textile mills, chemical industries and tyre factories in and around Delhi who retired/died in 1984 and in 1985 so far and whose provident fund dues have not yet been paid;

(b) what are the reason's therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to expedite the payment of Provident Fund dues to the retired employees/heirs of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) There are 424 textile mills, chemical industries and tyre factories (rubber and rubber products) with 27073 subscribers covered under the EPF Act in Delhi. The provident fund accounts in respect of the employees of 398 establishments out of *